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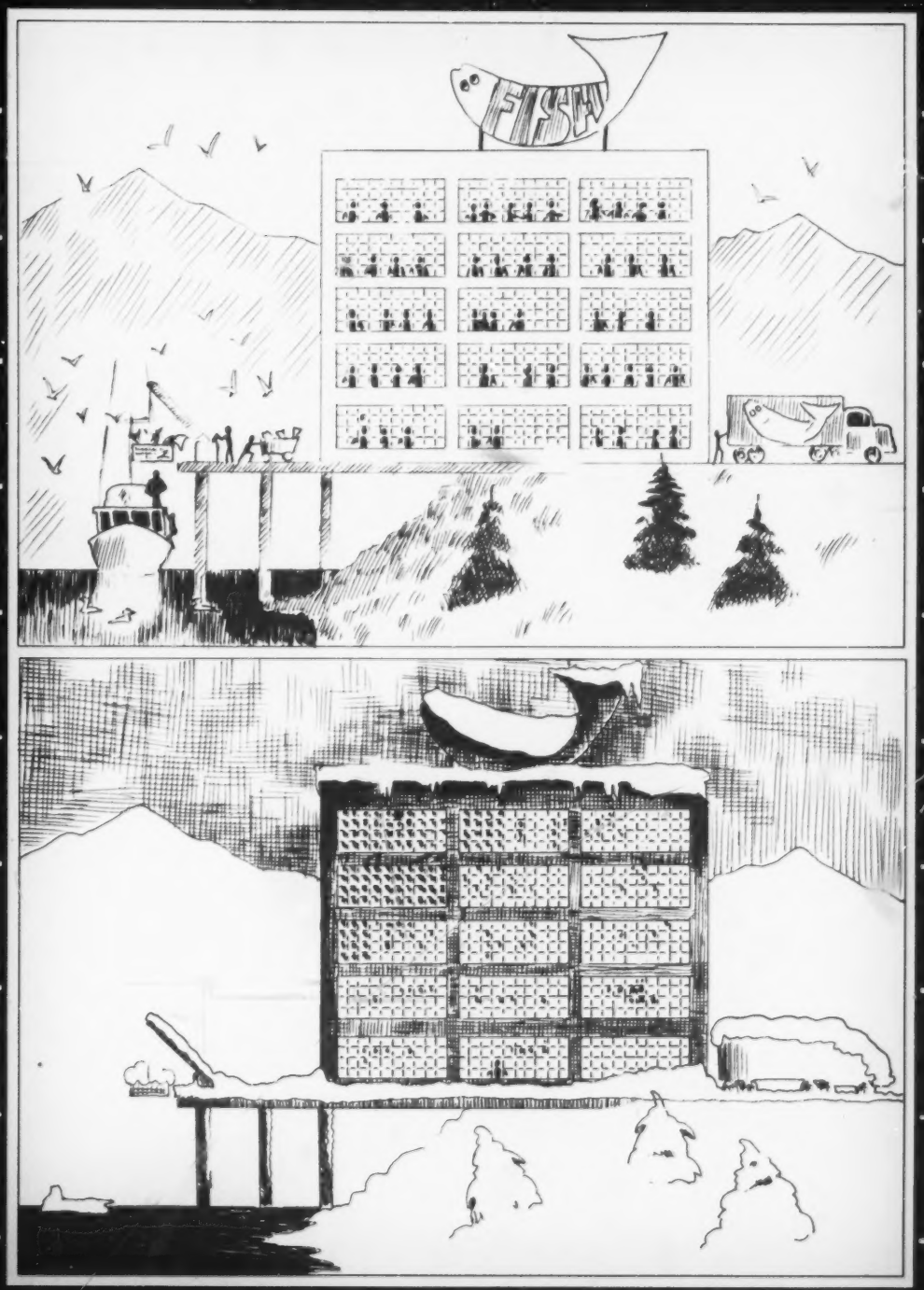
ALASKA ECONOMIC TRENDS

January 1990



Mass Layoffs in Alaska

Women and Self-Employment

Statewide Unemployment Falls

Spill Area Jobless Rates Increase

ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

ALASKA ECONOMIC
TRENDS

Contents

1 Mass Layoffs in Alaska

5 Women and Self-Employment

11 Alaska's Employment Scene
Statewide Unemployment Falls-
Spill Area JoblessRates Increase

Employment Scene Tables:

11-12-13 Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

14 Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries

16 Labor Force by Region and Census Area

Alaska Economic Trends is a monthly publication dealing with economic-related issues of Alaska. Opinions and analyses expressed by guest authors may not be consistent with those of the Alaska Department of Labor.

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ALASKANS COUNT

MADE IN ALASKA

Mass Layoffs in Alaska

by Judy Hallanger

America has become increasingly concerned with the dislocated or displaced worker. Surveys conducted by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) indicated that 4.7 million workers were displaced during the five year period ending January 1988. In Alaska, more than 12,000 workers were displaced during the same time. The influx of new technology, the shift from manufacturing to service jobs, the impacts of recent recessions, and growing foreign competition have all contributed to the concern about dislocated workers.

The terms "dislocated" and "displaced" are used interchangeably; they refer to a person who has substantial experience in a certain job but has lost their job because of a plant closing, slack work, or abolishment of their position or shift. Telephone operators, construction crews, and oil field workers provide examples of Alaskan workers who have been displaced at one time or another during the 1980s.

MLS Program Created to Track Layoffs

In response to the concern over dislocated workers, several federal programs were created. In 1982, the Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) established training and employment programs targeted for specific groups, one of which (Title III) was dislocated workers. Another section of the JTPA legislation authorized the Bureau of Labor Statistics to collect statistics relating to permanent layoffs and plant closings. These statistics would fill an information void and enable more intelligent decision-making about future laws aimed at helping the displaced worker.

In 1984 BLS developed a model for what is now known as the Mass Layoff Statistics (MLS) program. Originally tested in eight states, MLS is now operational in most states and will soon be a nationwide program. The MLS program obtains and compiles information about all kinds of layoffs, including those which produce dislocated workers, and stores them in a comprehensive database to allow for further analysis as the need arises.

Alaska's MLS Program Began in late 1987

The Mass Layoff Statistics program began data collection in Alaska during the last quarter of 1987. This article presents a snapshot of Alaska's MLS program, focusing on the first full year of data available- 1988. Although not strictly limited to dislocated workers, these data remain the only statistical information currently available about layoffs in Alaska.

Declining Number of Layoffs Tracks Recovering Economy

Since late 1987, both the number of firms contacted about potential layoffs and the number reporting layoffs have declined steadily (see Figure 1 and inset on how MLS data are gathered & used). This trend corresponds with Alaska's general economic recovery and a gradual decrease in the unemployment rate seen in Alaska over the same period.

How MLS Data are Gathered and Used

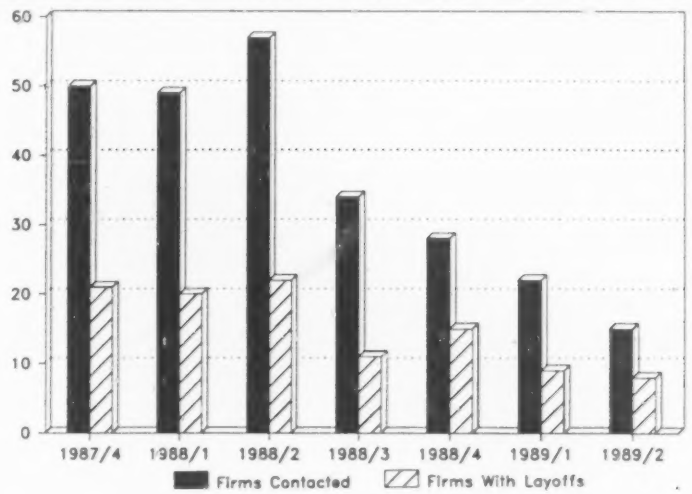
In brief, the MLS program works this way: employers with 20 or more unemployment insurance (UI) claims filed against them in any continuous three week period are marked for telephone contact. If the employer says that 20 or more people were laid off for 30 or more days then a layoff event has occurred. In addition, employers are asked to provide information about the layoff event, including how many people were affected, the layoff location and date, and the reason for the layoff.

The information obtained from employer contacts is then linked to UI claims data, and worker profiles are developed by incorporating claimant characteristics. The data are sent to the Bureau of Labor Statistics for inclusion into the national statistics.

Currently, MLS data are used as an allocator for certain Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA) funds. In the future, more programs may depend on MLS for federal fund allocation as well as for indications of change in the layoff situation both at the state level and nationwide.

Figure 1

MLS Layoffs are Declining



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table 1

MLS Layoffs by Industry, 1988

Industry	Number of Layoff Events	Percent of Total
Manufacturing	26	32.9%
Mining	13	16.5
Construction	10	12.7
Transportation	10	12.7
Government	8	10.1
Services	6	7.6
Trade	3	3.8
Finance	3	3.8
Total	79	100.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

About the Author:

Judy Hallanger is a labor economist with the Research & Analysis Section, Administrative Services Division, Alaska Department of Labor. She is based in Anchorage.

During 1988, almost 7,000 people were separated from their employment as part of a MLS layoff. Of these, about 5,000 filed an initial claim for unemployment insurance (UI) after the layoff. Why didn't almost 2,000 people file a UI claim? There are many reasons, including finding another job right away, returning to school after a summer job, or being ineligible for UI benefits.

Half of MLS Layoffs in Manufacturing and Mining

All of the major industries were impacted by MLS layoffs in 1988 (see Table 1). Perhaps hardest hit was manufacturing, with 20 seafood processing layoff events and six layoff events in the timber category. However, most of these layoffs were attributed to seasonal reasons, and are considered a normal part of the manufacturing business in Alaska.

Mining also showed a large number of MLS layoffs in 1988. These were almost entirely confined to the oil and gas field services sector. Contract completion, contract cancellation, and periods of slack work caused the majority of the 13 mining layoff events.

Construction and transportation tied for the number three spot in the MLS industry breakdown, having 10 layoff events each. Construction layoffs were split evenly between "seasonal" and "contract completed" cited as their cause. Layoffs in the transportation industry represented a diverse group of employers, including air and water transportation firms, school bus drivers, and an electric utility company. The most common reason given for the transportation layoffs was slack work, followed by seasonal reasons and vacation period.

The remaining four industries (trade, finance, services, and government) did not show as much MLS activity. This is to be expected since they are either composed of mainly small firms (trade, services) or traditionally offer more stable employment (finance, government) than the industries previously discussed. As a group these four industries accounted for 20 layoff events in Alaska in 1988.

Alaska's Seasonal Economy Leads List of Reasons for Layoffs

The dominant reason for MLS layoffs in Alaska in 1988 was seasonal factors. This was cited almost twice as often as any other reason (see Table 2).

The next most cited reason for layoffs was slack work, defined as an unexpected, nonseasonal lack of demand for an employer's product or services. Less frequent reasons given by MLS employers were vacation period, contract completed or cancelled, and ownership change. There are many other potential causes for mass layoffs or business closings: labor dispute, bankruptcy, import competition, material shortage, natural disaster, and automation, to name a few. Some of these may affect Alaska in the future as our economy diversifies and matures.

Table 2

Reasons for MLS Layoffs, 1988

Industry	Number of Layoff Events	Percent of Total
Seasonal	34	43.0
Slack Work	19	24.1
Contract Completed	14	17.7
Contract Cancelled	3	3.8
Vacation Period	3	3.8
Ownership Change	1	1.3
Other	5	6.3
Total	79	100.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

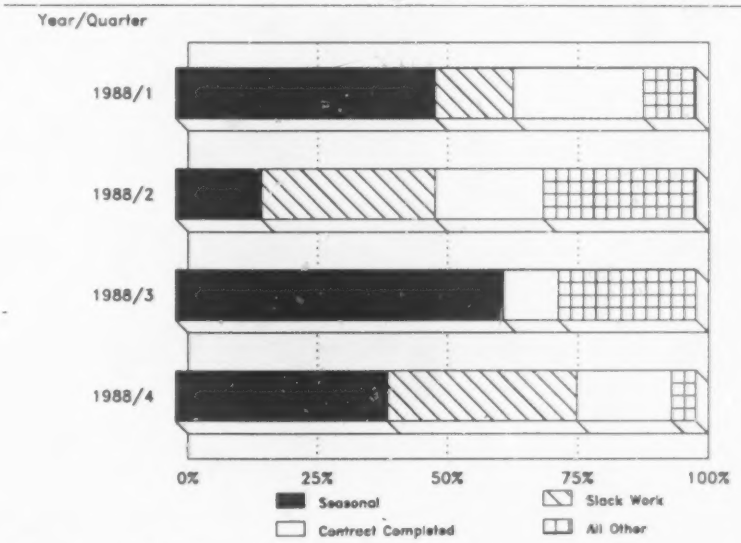
Slack Work, Contract Completion Two Reasons for Layoffs Throughout Year

Although seasonal reasons dominated the overall 1988 picture, each quarter showed a different pattern (see Figure 2). Seasonal layoffs were especially important during the third quarter, when many seafood processors traditionally begin their layoffs. During the first and fourth quarters, construction, logging and sawmills experienced seasonal shutdowns. In the second quarter of the year, it was the "end of the season" for a few firms, including ski lodges and school bus drivers.

In contrast to seasonal layoffs, slack work showed up as a reason for layoffs in every quarter except the third. Slack work was responsible for layoffs in almost every industry in Alaska. Contract completion caused MLS layoffs in every quarter, particularly among construction firms. The actual number of layoff events remained fairly constant over the quarters, but dipped to a low in the third quarter, a busy time for most Alaskan employers.

Figure 2

Reasons for Layoffs Change with the Seasons



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 3

Location of MLS Initial Claimants Compared to All UI Claimaints in 1988

	MLS Initial Claimants	Percent of Total	All UI Claimants	Percent of Total
Aleutian Islands Census Area	2	0.0%	153	0.3%
Anchorage Borough	1,101	23.2	13,429	26.3
Bethel Census Area	25	0.5	614	1.2
Bristol Bay Borough	5	0.1	70	0.1
Dillingham Census Area	3	0.1	243	0.5
Fairbanks North Star Borough	525	11.1	5,995	11.8
Haines Borough	24	0.5	179	0.4
Juneau Borough	89	1.9	1,652	3.2
Kenai Peninsula Borough	646	13.6	4,188	8.2
Ketchikan Gateway Borough	196	4.1	1,193	2.3
Kodiak Island Borough	295	6.2	843	1.7
Matanuska-Susitna Borough	333	7.0	3,741	7.3
Nome Census Area	47	1.0	613	1.2
North Slope Borough	71	1.5	231	0.5
Northwest Arctic Borough	33	0.7	464	0.9
Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan C.A.	191	4.0	740	1.5
Sitka Borough	102	2.1	579	1.1
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon Census Area	111	2.3	563	1.1
Southeast Fairbanks Census Area	20	0.4	506	1.0
Valdez-Cordova Census Area	40	0.8	772	1.5
Wade Hampton Census Area	30	0.6	321	0.6
Wrangell-Petersburg Census Area	218	4.6	704	1.4
Yukon-Koyukuk Census Area	20	0.4	845	1.7
Alaska--Unknown Census Area	22	0.5	0	0.0
Alaska Total	4,149	87.4	38,638	75.8
Out of State	600	12.6	12,364	24.2
Total	4,749	100.0	51,002	100.0

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

Table 4

Selected Characteristics of MLS and All UI Claimaints, 1988

	MLS Initial Claimants	Percent of MLS Total	All UI Claimants	Percent of Total
Alaska Native	695	14.6%	7,037	13.8%
Female	1,375	29.0	18,724	36.7
Over 55	208	4.4	3,244	6.3

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis

MLS Claimants Closely Resemble Other UI Claimants

When compared, initial claimants for UI from MLS layoffs are very similar to UI claimants as a whole. First of all, they seem to live in the same places (see Table 3). However, some fishing and logging areas, such as the Kenai Peninsula, Kodiak, Prince of Wales-Outer Ketchikan, and Wrangell-Petersburg have a disproportionate share of MLS claims. This reflects the high number of seafood processing, logging and mill layoffs in those areas.

A greater percentage of Alaska Natives were MLS initial claimants than in the general UI claimant population. There were also fewer female and over age 55 MLS claimants. But in general, there do not seem to be significant differences between the two groups in 1988 (see Table 4).

Summary

During the last decade, there has been growing concern over dislocated workers. Several federal programs were established to help these workers and to gather statistics about the problem. In Alaska, the MLS program began in late 1987 to record information about layoffs and the people they affect. Since the program started, the number of layoffs has been on the decline.

During 1988, the 79 MLS layoffs were dominated by seasonal layoffs in the manufacturing sector. About 70% of the people who were laid off filed for unemployment insurance. They shared many characteristics of other UI claimants.

Even with improvements in Alaska's economy, 40 to 50 layoff events are expected in 1989 based on preliminary data. Most of these layoffs are seasonal in nature and would probably occur each year regardless of fluctuations in the economy.

The Latest Dislocated Worker Legislation: WARN and EDWAA

After much debate, two new laws relating to dislocated workers were passed by Congress in 1988. The first, called the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act (WARN), requires employers of 100 or more workers to give 60 days notice in advance of a layoff or closing expected to last 6 months or longer involving 50 or more permanent, full-time workers.

The second piece of legislation, the Economic Dislocation and Worker Adjustment Assistance Act (EDWAA), essentially replaces the JTPA Title III program. It is designed to provide retraining and other assistance for dislocated workers. To reach this goal, each state will also establish a Dislocated Worker Unit (DWU) to coordinate services and develop plans for a rapid response team.

In Alaska, implementation of WARN began in February 1989. As of October 1989 there has been only one WARN layoff involving 170 workers. The EDWAA program began in July of 1989 and currently has 200 people enrolled (some of these are carryovers from the Title III program). There have been 45 positive completions from the program so far, and the average wage at placement was $12.06 an hour. During the program year 1988 (July 1988-June 1989), the JTPA Title III program had 410 participants. The average wage at placement was $9.86 an hour.

For more information on Alaska's WARN and EDWAA programs, contact:

Carolyn Tuovinen
Dislocated Worker Unit
Alaska Department of Community & Regional Affairs
949 East 36th Avenue #402
Anchorage, AK 99508
Telephone: (907) 563-1073

Women and Self-Employment

by F. Terry Elder

This article explores the significance of women in self-employment in rural and urban Alaska. It also examines the importance of self-employment as a source of private-sector employment for women. At the end of the article is a list of information sources, many of which are specifically about female self-employment.

Women are a significant and growing percentage of both total and self-employment in Alaska. There are a number of reasons why women are increasing their share of self-employment even faster than they are of wage and salary employment. The retail trade and service sectors of the economy have high relative growth rates, and women comprise a relatively large part of the employment in these sectors. Since entrepreneurs tend to establish businesses in industries in which they have experience, the tendency is for women to start businesses in these two rapidly growing industries.

Another reason for increasing female self-employment is the growing trend in business to contract out more services. Contracting out has helped the growth of small businesses, and women-owned businesses are getting their share of this contract work.

In addition to the growth of contracting, the desire to supplement family income has encouraged increased participation of women in self-employment as well as in wage and salary employment. The need to adapt work hours to other obligations, which is not always easy to do in the corporate world, has encouraged many women to work for themselves.

About the author:

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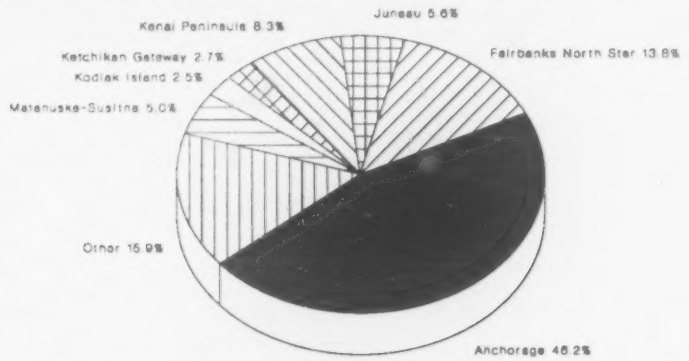
Figure 1

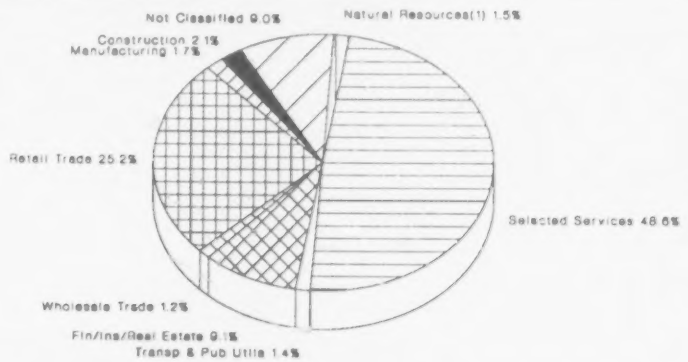
Women Owned Businesses in Alaska Geographic Distribution of Firms — 1982



Source: 1982 Economic Census, WB82-1,Table 4, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 2

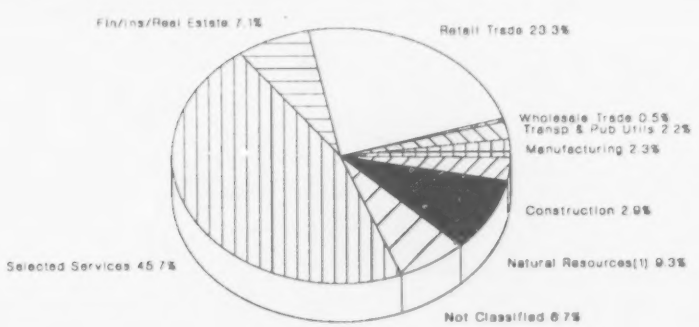
Women-Owned Businesses in the U.S. Industry Distribution of Firms — 1982



(1) Includes Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/ Mining.
Source: 1982 Economic Census, WB82-1,Table 1, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 3

Women-Owned Businesses in Alaska Industry Distribution of Firms — 1982



(1) Includes Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/ Mining.
Source: 1982 Economic Census, WB82-1,Table 2, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Women Owned 2.9 Million Businesses in 1982

According to the survey, *Women Owned Businesses* published by the U.S. Department of Commerce's Census Bureau, there were 2.9 million women-owned businesses nationwide in 1982. Following are some interesting highlights about these businesses from the 1982 report:

- They accounted for about 23.9% of all proprietorships, partnerships, and subchapter S small business corporations.
- 92.3% were sole proprietorships, 4.6% were partnerships, and 3.1% were corporations.
- The 7.7% of firms comprised of partnerships and corporations generated 50.3% of total gross receipts.
- The 2.9 million firms had total gross receipts of $98.3 billion, or 10.2% of the gross receipts of all firms, excluding large corporations.
- Average gross receipts amounted to about $34,100.
- About 51.3% had gross receipts of less than $5,000.
- About 0.3% had gross receipts of $1 million, and these large firms accounted for almost 28% of the gross receipts of all women-owned firms.
- 73.8% of the businesses with 63.2% of gross receipts were classified in the services and retail trade sectors of industry.
- 55.5% operated out of a residence.

Women-owned Businesses Are Important in Alaska Too

The Census Bureau's report also showed that women were important in Alaska's economy. It counted 10,554 women-owned firms in Alaska, which generated gross receipts of $378.9 million. Some highlights about these Alaska businesses follow:

- In comparison to the 10,554 businesses owned by women,

27,367 Alaska businesses were owned by nonminority males.

- Geographic distribution of these firms was widespread, although businesses in the Anchorage Borough accounted for 46.2% of the firms and 50.5% of the gross receipts. (see Figure 1 and Figure 4.)

- About 69.0% of these firms, and 54.8% of gross receipts, were in the services and retail trade industries. These industries were relatively less important in Alaska than in the rest of the country. Over 9% of women-owned firms in Alaska were in the natural resources industry compared to 1.5% nationally. (see Figure 2, Figure 3 and Figure 6.)

- Industry distribution of gross receipts of these firms in Alaska differed significantly from their national counterparts. Retail and wholesale trade provided 33.3% of gross receipts in Alaska versus 45.8% in the U.S. Construction accounted for 12.8% in Alaska compared to 4.6% nationally. (see Figure 5 and Figure 6.)

Recent Data Suggests Female Self-Employment Increasing

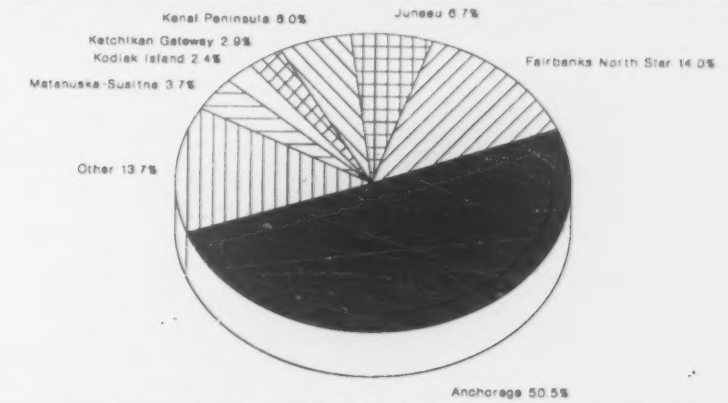
More recent national data suggest that the importance of female participation in self-employment has increased since 1980. In a March 26, 1988, article in the *Anchorage Daily News*, Robert Dietsch of the Scripps Howard News Service reported that, in the mid-1980s, the growth rate of the number of female-owned businesses was twice that of male-owned businesses. Mr. Dietsch further stated that female participation in self-employment workshops is large (more than 50%), and that some small business trade organization officials believe that women could be 50% of self-employed workers by the end of the century.

Self-Employment: A Growing Employment Option; Especially Among Nonwhites and Females

In Alaska, between 1980 and 1985, self-employment[1] sharply increased its share of total employment from 7.3% to 11.9%. (see Figure 7.) Increased

Figure 4

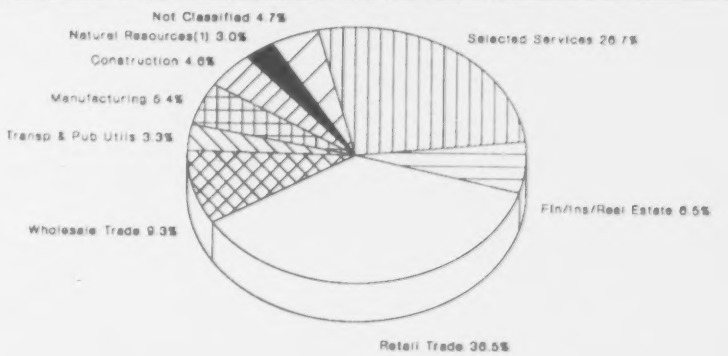
Women-Owned Businesses in Alaska
Geographic Distribution of Gross Receipts — 1982



Source: 1982 Economic Census, WB82-1,Table 4, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 5

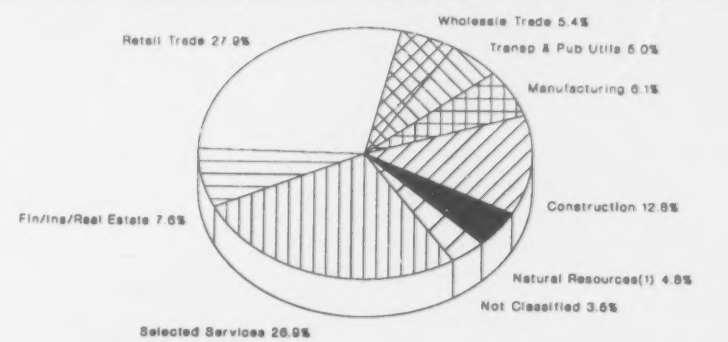
Women-Owned Businesses in the U.S.
Industry Distribution of Gross Receipts — 1982



(1) Includes Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/ Mining.
Source: 1982 Economic Census, WB82-1,Table 1, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 6

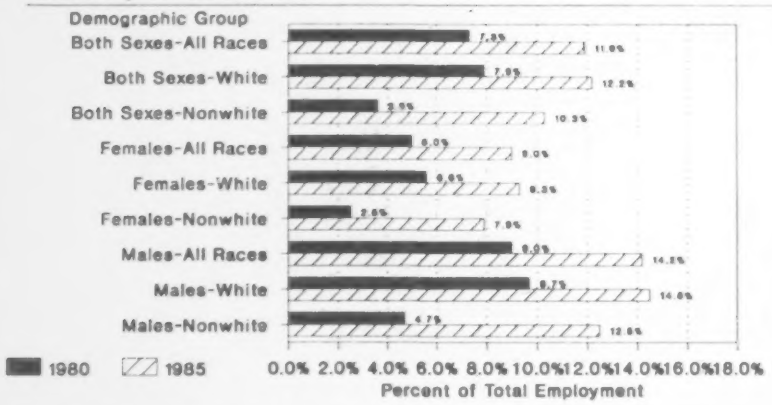
Women-Owned Businesses in Alaska
Industry Distribution of Gross Receipts — 1982



(1) Includes Agriculture/Forestry/Fishing/ Mining.
Source: 1982 Economic Census, WB82-1,Table 2, U.S. Department of Commerce.

Figure 7

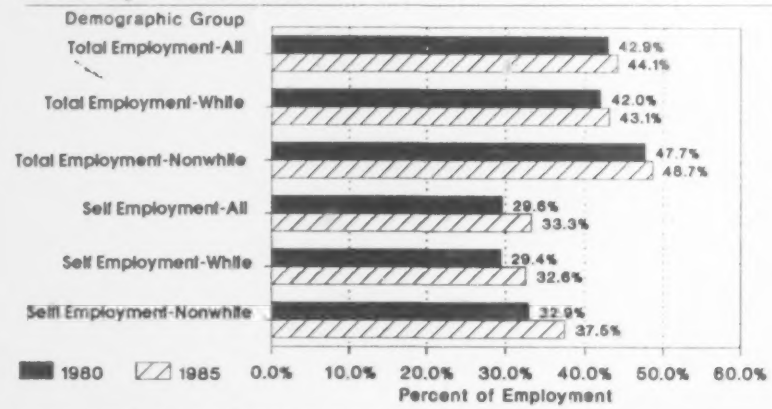
Self-Employment as a Percent of Total Employment Alaska, 1980 & 1985



Source: 1985-Current Population Survey, U.S. BLS; 1980-Census Bureau

Figure 8

Females as a Percent of Employment Alaska, 1980 & 1985



Source: 1985-Current Population Survey, U.S. BLS; 1980-Census Bureau

self-employment was present in all demographic groups, but the increase in importance of self-employment was especially large for nonwhites. Self-employment increased its share of total employment for this group from 3.6% to 10.3%. The share almost doubled for women, but tripled for nonwhite women. Despite inroads made into self-employment by females, men still dominate self-employment. In 1985, somewhat more than one in ten employed women were self-employed, but about one in six employed men worked for themselves.

In Alaska, men are the majority of both total employment and the self-employed but women are making gains. Women in Alaska increased their share of employment between 1980 and 1985 from 42.9% of the total to 44.1%. (see Figure 8.) Both white and nonwhite women registered gains. Paralleling the trend in total employment, women increased their share of self-employment from 29.6% to 33.3%. Again, both white and nonwhite women gained relative to men. Another indication of nonwhite female self-employment advances is that the white share of female self-employment fell from 91.6% in 1980 to about 83.3% in 1985. Self-employment among nonwhite women rose from 2.5% of their total employment to 7.9%.

The 42.9% female share of total employment in Alaska in 1980 was about the same as the 42.6% national female share of total employment. Women comprised a larger percentage of total employment for nonwhite groups than for whites. (see Figure 9.) Women comprised a smaller percentage of total employment in rural areas compared to their statewide share for each demographic group. Native women in rural areas were 44.8% of Native rural total employment. This was the largest female share of any race group in rural Alaska.

The female share of self-employment (adjusted to include employees of their own corporations)[2] was 29.0%. (see Figure 10.) This was substantially larger than the 21.6% female share of self-employment in the U.S. in 1980. Similar to total employment, the female share of statewide nonwhite self-employment was greater than that for whites. In contrast to the share of total employment, however, Native women comprised a slightly larger share of Native rural self-employment than for Native statewide self-employment.[3] Generally, women were a smaller percent of statewide and rural self-employment than they were of total employment. For some demographic groups, however, the role of women in self-employment was about the same as their role in total employment. This was true for rural black women and statewide and rural Asian women.

'80 Census Shows Positive Rural Effect on Self-Employment

Further insight into the role of women in self-employment may be gained by a detailed look at the 1980 census, which provides data on employment by race, sex, and location (see Table 1). The data show that there is a positive "rural effect" on self-employment. That is, for every race and sex group except Native and Asian men, self-employment is a larger percentage of rural private employment than of urban private employment. The "rural effect" is larger and more consistently present for females than for males. Among women, the "rural effect" is strongest for blacks and Spanish-origin women.

Without more data and analysis, it can't be determined why the "rural effect" exists and why it appears to be different for the racial groups. Cultural, demographic, and economic factors- or

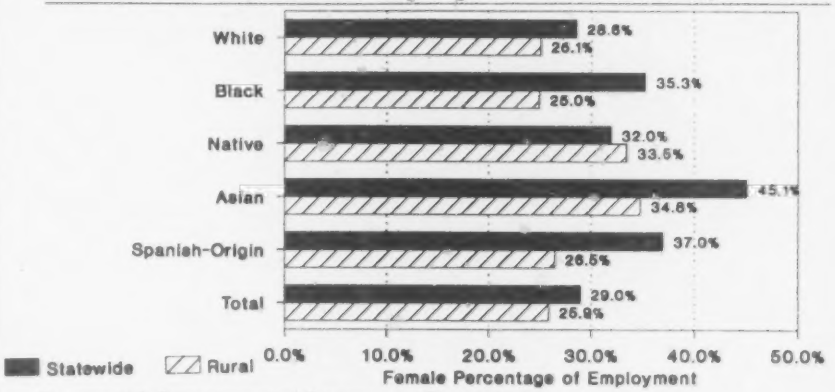
some combination thereof- are possibilities for the "rural effect". Self-employment may be a larger share of total private employment in rural Alaska due to a lack of wage and salary job opportunities in the private sector. The stronger effect for women may reflect the decision of some women, for whatever reason, in rural Alaska not to compete with men for wage and salary jobs. Another possibility is that it reflects the ability of local entrepreneurs to serve their local markets competitively. Not every merchant needs a huge market. The merchant only needs a market large enough to generate sufficient revenues to cover costs and provide a reasonable profit. The data suggest that there are profitable opportunities in rural Alaska. These opportunities are being exploited by members of each racial group and, especially, by women. Even though there were numerically fewer women than men who were self-employed, self-employment was a significant source of employment for women of all races, especially in rural Alaska.

The data also show that, in 1980, women of each race were less likely to be self-employed than men. This observation, however, does not hold consistently. For each racial group, the self-employment share of private employment is lower for women than men. For Asian men and women, the percentages are very close. In rural Alaska, Black and Asian women show a greater tendency to be self-employed than do men of the same race. Also, Native and Spanish-origin rural women have almost the same tendency to self-employment as do Native and Spanish-origin rural men.

It is likely that the differences between the sexes of each race have narrowed since 1980. Data from 1980, 1982, and 1985 suggest that women are increasingly important contributors to employment and self-employment in Alaska. In addition to the importance of women in self-employment, especially in rural areas, women accounted for about 59.3% of unpaid family workers in 1980. It is likely that many of these female unpaid family workers were important to the survival of small businesses that may have been owned by men.

Figure 9

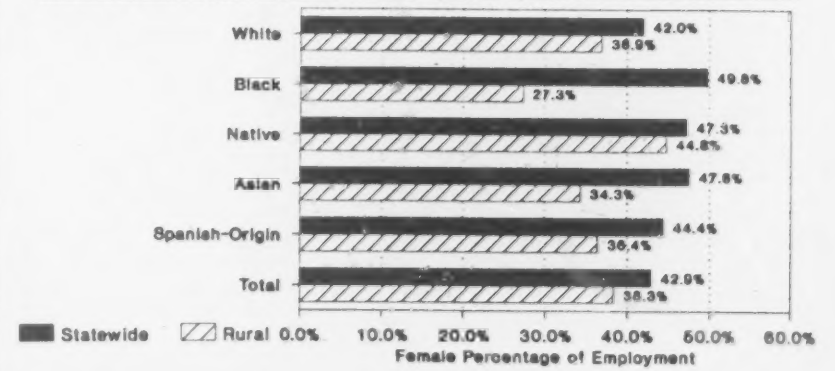
Females by Race as a Percent of Total-Employment — Alaska, 1980



Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau. PC80-1-C3, Alaska, Tables 67/77/87.

Figure 10

Females by Race as a Percent of Self-Employment* —Alaska, 1980



* Includes employees of own corporations.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Census Bureau. PC80-1-C3, Alaska, Tables 67/77/87.

Summary

It can be seen, then, that self-employment is important in Alaska, and is particularly important in rural Alaska. In addition, women in Alaska comprise a larger component of self-employment than they do nationally. The self-employment option is not for everyone, but men and women should keep in mind that it is an option to consider.

Notes

1. This does not include the self-employed who incorporate, since they are called employees of own corporations, and are included in wage and salary employment. If these employees were included in self-employment, it would raise the self-employment percentages to 9.2% in 1980 and 15.0% in 1985. Since the data are not available in that detail for 1985, they are excluded from the 1980 data for comparative purposes.

2. About 3.3% of total private wage and salary employment in 1980 was composed of employees of their own corporations, and the percentage was about the same in rural areas (3.0%). Examination of the race and sex characteristics of employees of their own corporations reveals the 94.0% were white, 0.5% were black, 4.1% were Native, and 1.3% were of Spanish origin. About 26.6% of employees statewide were women, and 29.4% of employees of their own corporations in rural Alaska were women. Interestingly, almost half of the Native employees of their own corporations were women. Native female entrepreneurs, for some reason, tended to use the corporate structure at an above average rate.

3. Native self-employment was 33.5% female in rural areas and 29.7% female in urban areas. This was the only group for which women were a larger percentage of rural than urban self-employment.

Table 1

Self-Employment [1]/ as a Percent of Total Private Employment Alaska, 1980

Category	Total	Rural	Urban	Total Female	Rural Female	Urban Female	Total Male	Rural Male	Urban Male
White	14.7%	17.5%	13.6%	10.6%	13.1%	9.8%	17.4%	19.7%	16.4%
Black	8.0	15.4	7.3	5.7	15.7	5.2	10.3	15.3	9.6
Native	9.6	10.4	8.6	7.4	9.3	5.5	11.1	11.0	11.3
Asian	5.4	4.5	5.6	5.3	5.6	5.2	5.4	4.0	6.0
Spanish-origin	7.5	14.8	6.2	6.2	13.8	5.4	8.6	15.2	7.0
Total	13.9	16.3	12.9	10.0	12.5	9.2	16.5	18.3	15.7

[1]/ Self-employment includes employees of their own corporations.

Source: U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of Census, PC 80-1-C3, Alaska Tables 67/77/87

A Primer for Self-Employment

There are many roads to self-employment, and many sources of information for people considering working for themselves. For example, the Alaska Dept. of Commerce and Economic Development offers help from their Business Development Division. The Adult and Vocational Education section of the Alaska Dept. of Education offers information and an interest assessment quiz in the publication *Working for Yourself*. Women considering starting their own businesses may be interested in the information below. Most sources are targeted for female entrepreneurs.

Christiansen, Kathleen. *Women and Home-Based Work*. New York, NY: Henry Holt & Co., 1988. Describes disadvantages experienced by women working at home for pay.

Hoffman, David. *Prepare for Success: How to Start a Village Business*. Anchorage, AK: Village Entrepreneurship Program, Community Enterprise Development Corp. 1985. How to start and finance a business in rural Alaska.

Mancuso, Joseph R. *Small Business Resource Guide*. New York, NY: The Center for Entrepreneurial Mgmt. A list of publications, govt. agencies, and associations providing information or services to business owners. Write to Center for Entrepreneurial Mgmt. (CEM), 29 Greene Street, New York, NY 10013, ph.(212) 925-7304.

Alaska Dept. of Commerce and Economic Development, Division of Business Development. *Establishing a Business in Alaska*. 1988. Information on starting a business in Alaska including sources of assistance, licensing requirements, taxation, labor laws, and other information for those working for themselves.

Alaska Dept. of Education, Office of Adult and Vocational Education. *Home-Based Business Resources*. 1986. Information on establishing a business run from the home. Includes information useful to rural entrepreneurs, independent crafts and trades people & service business proprietors. Available from the Vocational Materials Library of the Office of Adult and Vocational Education.

Corp. for Enterprise Development. *A Working Guide to Women's Self-Employment*. A report for organizations, officials and others concerned with opening the self-employment option to more women, especially poor and low-income women. The cost is $10. Write the Corp. for Enterprise Development, 1725 K Street, NW, Suite 1401, Washington, DC 20006.

JG Press. *Sideline Business*. A monthly newsletter for part-time entrepreneurs offering accounting and tax tips. Available for $24.95/year from JG Press, Box 323, Emmaus, PA 18049.

Mother's Home Business Network. *Mother's Home Business Network*. Newsletter and other resources for mothers starting home-based businesses. For sample, send $2 & a self-addressed stamped envelope to Mother's Home Business Network, P.O. Box 423, East Meadow, NY 11554.

National Federation of Business Foundation. *Risk to Riches*. A study exploring the status of women's entrepreneurship in 20 industry categories. Write to the National Federation of Business (NFIB) Foundation, Government and Research Office, 600 Maryland Ave., SW, Suite 700, Washington, DC 20024.

US Dept.of Labor. *From Homemaking to Entrepreneurship: A Readiness Training Program*. A "how-to" guide for organizations and local and state govt. units concerned with increasing the employment opportunities for women. Write to the US Dept. of Labor, Women's Bureau, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210.

US Dept. of Labor. *Women Business Owners*. A fact sheet on the rapid rise of women-owned businesses. Gives tips on entrepreneurial opportunities for women, including assistance programs for prospective business owners. Write to the US Dept. of Labor, Women's Bureau, Dept. R, 200 Constitution Ave, NW, Washington, DC 20210.

US Dept. of Labor. *Women-Owned Businesses*. (WB82-1). A 1982 survey of businesses owned by women available from the US Dept. of Labor, Women's Bureau, 200 Constitution Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20210.

Statewide Unemployment Falls- Spill Area Jobless Rates Increase

by John Boucher

Alaska's statewide unemployment rate fell slightly in October, falling two-tenths of a percentage point to 7.1%. The October rate resumed the trend of record-setting monthly unemployment rates which has characterized most of 1989. In eight out of ten months this year the unemployment rate recorded an all-time low for that particular month. (see Figure 1.) It is now a certainty- barring unforeseen dramatic increases in unemployment in the last two months of the year- that 1989 will record the lowest annual unemployment rate for Alaska since 1976. The unemployment rate in 1976 was 8.0%. Comparable statistics for Alaska's unemployment rate are not available prior to 1976 because the unemployment rate was calculated differently.

While the statewide rate was setting another record, areas affected by the demobilization of the oil spill work force were not doing as well. The demobilization manifested itself in the Valdez-Cordova, Kenai and Kodiak areas in October in the form of higher unemployment rates. (see Table 4.) Jobless rates in all three of these areas increased in October, the largest increase being in the Valdez-Cordova census area. October's unemployment rate in Valdez-Cordova was 8.5%, up nearly four percentage points from September. Meanwhile, the Kenai Peninsula Borough's unemployment rate increased more than three percentage points to 11.2% and Kodiak's unemployment rate increased nearly a full percentage point.

4,800 Jobs Lost In Gulf Coast In October

Given the loss of 4,500 jobs in the Gulf Coast region during October it is not too surprising that unemployment rates in the region took a jump. More than 60% of the job loss (2,700) in the region was due to oil spill workers. Most of the balance of the job loss was in the seafood processing industry. (see Table 2.) Now

Table 1

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work Alaska

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	Changes from 9/89	Changes from 10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	222,900	234,200	214,800	-11,300	8,100
Mining	10,800	11,000	9,700	-200	1,100
Construction	10,500	11,400	9,900	-900	600
Manufacturing	13,400	17,100	13,600	-3,700	-200
Seafood Processing	5,900	9,300	6,000	-3,400	-100
Lumber & Paper Products	3,900	4,100	4,200	-200	-300
All Other Manufacturing	3,600	3,700	3,400	-100	200
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	18,400	21,900	17,300	-3,500	1,100
Trucking & Warehousing	2,200	2,400	2,200	-200	0
Water Transportation	1,800	4,200	1,100	-2,400	700
Air Transportation	5,700	6,000	5,400	-300	300
Communications	3,200	3,300	3,200	-100	0
All Other Transportation	5,500	6,000	5,400	-500	100
Trade	44,200	45,500	42,300	-1,300	1,900
Wholesale	7,900	8,100	7,600	-200	300
Retail	36,300	37,400	34,700	-1,100	1,600
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	5,400	5,500	5,100	-100	300
Food Stores	6,600	6,500	6,000	100	600
Eating & Drinking Places	13,100	14,100	12,600	-1,000	500
All Other Retail	11,200	11,300	11,000	-100	200
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	10,500	10,600	10,600	-100	-100
Services	44,100	45,700	42,700	-1,600	1,400
Hotels & Other Lodging	4,700	5,700	4,300	-1,000	400
Government	71,000	71,000	68,700	0	2,300
Federal	18,000	18,500	17,800	-500	200
State	21,800	21,900	20,400	-100	1,400
Local	31,200	30,600	30,500	600	700

Notes: Prepared in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.
Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.
The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.
Benchmark date: March 1988
p/ denotes preliminary estimates
r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Anchorage Borough

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	Changes from: 9/89	Changes from: 10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	106,150	106,850	102,000	-700	4,150
Mining	3,650	3,700	3,500	-50	150
Construction	4,850	5,150	4,500	-300	350
Manufacturing	2,400	2,650	2,350	-250	50
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	10,100	10,200	9,150	-100	950
Trucking & Warehousing	1,500	1,600	1,400	-100	100
Water Transportation	800	550	300	250	500
Air Transportation	3,450	3,600	3,350	-150	100
Communications	1,850	1,850	1,750	0	100
All Other Transportation	2,500	2,600	2,350	-100	150
Trade	25,950	25,750	24,550	200	1,400
Wholesale	5,950	5,850	5,750	100	200
Retail	20,000	19,900	18,800	100	1,200
Gen. Merch. & Apparel	2,800	2,700	2,600	100	200
Food Stores	3,100	3,050	2,800	50	300
Eating & Drinking Pl.	7,800	7,950	7,550	-150	250
All Other Retail	6,300	6,200	5,850	100	450
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	6,850	6,800	7,150	50	-300
Services	25,950	26,100	24,700	-150	1,250
Government	26,400	26,500	26,100	-100	300
Federal	10,100	10,200	10,200	-100	-100
State	7,800	7,650	7,350	150	450
Local	8,500	8,650	8,550	-150	-50

Fairbanks North Star Borough

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	Changes from: 9/89	Changes from: 10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	26,550	27,650	25,950	-1,100	600
Mining	150	200	150	-50	0
Construction	1,850	2,000	1,800	-150	50
Manufacturing	650	650	650	0	0
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	1,900	2,200	1,850	-300	50
Trucking & Warehousing	400	450	400	-50	0
Air Transportation	300	350	300	-50	0
All Other Transportation	1,200	1,400	1,150	-200	50
Trade	5,650	6,250	5,500	-600	150
Wholesale	750	750	700	0	50
Retail	4,900	5,500	4,800	-600	100
Food Stores	800	800	800	0	0
All Other Retail	4,100	4,700	4,000	-600	100
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	800	800	750	0	50
Services	5,650	5,850	5,600	-200	50
Government	9,900	9,700	9,650	200	250
Federal	2,800	2,850	2,750	-50	50
State	4,300	4,150	4,200	150	100
Local	2,800	2,700	2,700	100	100

Anchorage-MatSu Region

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	Changes from: 9/89	Changes from: 10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	113,100	114,000	108,500	-900	4,600
Mining	3,650	3,700	3,550	-50	100
Construction	5,100	5,400	4,850	-300	250
Manufacturing	2,550	2,800	2,450	-250	100
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	10,750	10,900	9,900	-150	850
Trade	27,600	27,450	26,100	150	1,500
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	7,350	7,350	7,500	0	-150
Services	27,250	27,450	25,650	-200	1,600
Government	28,850	28,950	28,500	-100	350

Interior Region

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	Changes from: 9/89	Changes from: 10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	30,650	32,300	29,800	-1,650	850
Mining	300	350	300	-50	0
Construction	2,000	2,150	1,900	-150	100
Manufacturing	650	650	650	0	0
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	2,350	2,650	2,200	-300	150
Trade	6,050	6,750	5,900	-700	150
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	900	900	800	0	100
Services	6,200	6,550	6,100	-350	100
Government	12,200	12,300	11,950	-100	250

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1988 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

(cont. on page 13)

(cont. from page 12) Table 2

Nonagricultural Wage and Salary Employment By Place of Work

Southeast Region

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	Changes from: 10/88	9/89	10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	32,350	34,850	31,700	-2,500	650
Mining	300	300	200	0	100
Construction	1,300	1,350	1,250	-50	50
Manufacturing	5,050	6,250	5,450	-1,200	-400
Seafood Processing	1,100	2,150	1,200	-1,050	-100
Lumber & Paper Products	3,700	3,850	3,950	-150	-250
All Other Manufacturing	250	250	300	0	-50
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	2,300	2,600	2,300	-300	0
Trade	5,100	5,450	4,950	-350	150
Wholesale	500	550	450	-50	50
Retail	4,600	4,900	4,500	-300	100
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	1,050	1,050	1,000	0	50
Services	5,050	5,400	4,850	-350	200
Government	12,200	12,450	11,700	-250	500
Federal	2,100	2,300	2,050	-200	50
State	5,550	5,650	5,250	-100	300
Local	4,550	4,500	4,400	50	150

Southwest Region

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	Changes from: 10/88	9/89	10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	13,550	14,650	12,950	-1,100	600
Seafood Processing	2,300	3,400	2,100	-1,100	200
All Other Private	4,700	4,850	4,500	-150	200
Government	6,550	6,400	6,350	150	200
Federal	1,300	1,350	1,300	-50	0
State	550	550	550	0	0
Local	4,700	4,500	4,500	200	200

Gulf Coast Region

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	Changes from: 10/88	9/89	10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	20,350	24,950	19,600	-4,600	750
Mining	850	850	800	0	50
Construction	1,050	1,100	1,050	-50	0
Manufacturing	2,650	3,850	2,950	-1,200	-300
Seafood Processing	1,900	3,100	2,250	-1,200	-350
All Other Manufacturing	750	750	700	0	50
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	1,600	4,400	1,400	-2,800	200
Trade	3,850	4,050	3,700	-200	150
Wholesale	550	550	500	0	50
Retail	3,300	3,500	3,200	-200	100
Finance, Ins. & Real Estate	550	550	550	0	0
Services	3,550	3,950	3,350	-400	200
Government	6,250	6,200	5,800	50	450
Federal	600	650	600	-50	0
State	2,100	2,200	1,850	-100	250
Local	3,550	3,350	3,350	200	200

Northern Region

	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	Changes from: 10/88	9/89	10/88
Nonag. Wage & Salary	14,650	14,700	13,600	-50	1,050
Mining	5,650	5,700	4,950	-50	700
All Other Private	4,250	4,350	4,100	-100	150
Government	4,750	4,650	4,550	100	200
Federal	400	400	350	0	50
State	350	350	350	0	0
Local	4,000	3,900	3,850	100	150

Notes: Government includes teachers in primary and secondary schools, and personnel employed by the University of Alaska.

The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Labor Force table.

Benchmark date: March 1988 p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Table 3

Alaska Hours and Earnings for Selected Industries [1/2]

	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88
Mining	$1,040.36	$1,131.31	$1,094.17	46.8	51.8	49.0	$22.23	$21.84	$22.33
Construction	1,098.39	1,175.40	1,033.79	45.9	47.8	43.4	23.93	24.59	23.82
Manufacturing	571.86	545.65	589.31	40.3	41.4	43.3	14.19	13.18	13.61
Seafood Processing	329.78	375.71	364.23	36.4	39.3	42.7	9.06	9.56	8.53
Lumber & Paper Prod	783.55	737.30	775.56	46.2	45.4	46.0	16.96	16.24	16.86
Trans., Comm. & Utilities	647.96	719.37	613.26	38.8	50.2	37.1	16.70	14.33	16.53
Trade	398.01	388.62	380.95	34.7	34.3	33.3	11.47	11.33	11.44
Wholesale	540.40	534.50	541.94	38.6	39.1	38.3	14.00	13.67	14.15
Retail	351.03	341.12	327.06	33.4	32.8	31.6	10.51	10.4	10.35
Finance-Ins. & R.E	406.27	418.42	414.75	36.7	36.8	35.0	11.07	11.37	11.85

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: March 1988

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor.

2/ Retail Trade & Trade excludes eating and drinking establishments.

Averages are based on data for full- and part-time production workers (manufacturing) and nonsupervisory workers (nonmanufacturing) and are for gross earnings and hours paid, including overtime pay and hours.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

that spill work has ended, the region is posting a more realistic rate of job growth- a little more than 4%. This compares to the 20-25% growth rates that were posted at the peak of the clean up effort. There are still some employment remnants left over from the spill though and these will be reflected in the Gulf Coast employment picture for the remainder of the year.

Retail Activity – A Sign of Spill Worker Spending?

The differing directions of the statewide and spill-affected area's unemployment rates in October point to some interesting after-effects of the spill. The economic boost that most other regions experienced in October could be due to spill workers returning home to their local economies to spend their summer wages. Indications are that the retail centers of the state, particularly Anchorage, are experiencing an unseasonably high amount of retail activity. (see Table 2.)

While October's unseasonal retail activity is most easily explained by oil spill workers returning home, there could be other explanations for it as well. Among the possible causes are: the beginning of spending created by the Permanent Fund Dividend distribution and a generally better economic outlook among Alaskan consumers.

Anchorage's retail sector is not the only industry in Alaska's largest city manifesting signs of resurgence. Every industry except banking posted more employment in October of this year than last. As the Gulf Coast region falls back in terms of employment growth, Anchorage is asserting itself as one of the faster growing regions in the state. The question in the back of most everyone's mind is how long this growth might be sustained-certainly growth will continue through the end of the year, but sustained growth at the current 4%+ rate would be highly optimistic. The most prudent posture for next year at this point in time would be wait and see.

Northern Alaska Growth Fueled by Mining, Construction

While Anchorage is experiencing broad based industry employment growth, the other regional growth leader- Northern Alaska - is reaping the employment benefits of the Red Dog mine. In October the Red Dog project was in the final construction phase prior to production. Employment constructing the mill, campsite and a conveyor system numbered more than 700. In addition more than 100 miners were working at the site. The construction portion of the project is scheduled for completion by the end of the year, but at that time the mine should start approaching peak employment.

Southeast & Southwest Alaska Continue Steady Growth

Despite a somewhat sluggish seafood processing and timber industry, Southeast Alaska continues to post steady employment growth. Southeast has been buoyed by the resurgent mining industry and healthy growth in the retail trade and services sectors. While the manufacturing industry has been struggling in Southeast, Southwest Alaska owes a good portion of its growth to bottomfish activity. There are indications though that the bottomfish industry is slowing down from the double-digit growth rate it experienced the last several years. Reports of a shrinking resource are raising concerns about the future of the bottomfishery. Just recently the North Pacific Fisheries Management Council voted to ban roe stripping in the area. If this move is approved by the U.S. Department of Commerce it would put an end to the practice of discarding millions of pounds of edible fish while keeping only their eggs.

Fairbanks and Interior Growing Also...Just Not As Fast

Just like the rest of the state, Interior Alaska is posting job gains, just not to the extent that the rest of the state is. The reason for Interior lagging behind is the lack of a single strong performing industry that is present in every other region. Employment is up across the board in Fairbanks and Interior, but there isn't a Red Dog mine project or a booming bottomfishery to add to the employment growth.

Summary: Demobilization Causes Some Downturns, But Growth Remains

October's employment and unemployment figures exhibited some negative effects from the demobilization of the oil spill workers. Unemployment rates in the Gulf Coast region increased dramatically and more than 2,700 jobs were lost on the oil spill work force alone. Other areas of the state though, particularly Anchorage, showed some unseasonably strong retail activity, which could be attributed to the spending of oil spill wages, the Permanent Fund Dividend and a generally better economic outlook. Not all of the current growth is the result of the oil spill. Alaska is posting healthy growth rates in every region of the state in comparison to last year.

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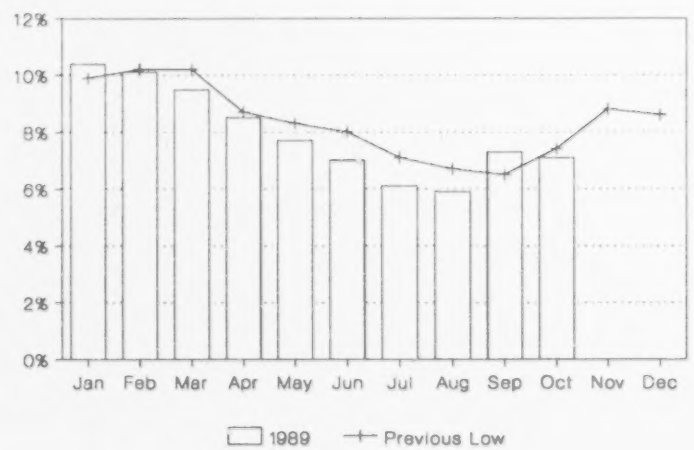
Figure 1

1989 Unemployment Rate Setting Records



Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis.

Table 4

Labor Force By Region and Census Area

	Labor Force			Unemployment			Rate			Employment		
	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88	p/ 10/89	r/ 9/89	10/88
Alaska Statewide	236,728	242,019	241,047	16,852	17,567	20,630	7.1%	7.3%	8.6%	219,876	224,452	220,417
Anch.-MatSu Region	123,556	122,056	125,432	7,763	8,331	9,854	6.3	6.8	7.9	115,793	113,725	115,578
Anchorage Borough	109,258	107,666	111,362	5,962	6,476	7,889	5.5	6.0	7.1	103,296	101,190	103,473
MatSu Borough	14,298	14,390	14,070	1,801	1,855	1,965	12.6	12.9	14.0	12,497	12,535	12,105
Gulf Coast Region	25,305	29,099	25,470	2,589	2,142	2,826	10.2	7.4	11.1	22,716	26,957	22,644
Kenai Peninsula Borough	15,797	18,056	16,108	1,833	1,485	2,188	11.6	8.2	13.6	13,964	16,571	13,920
Kodiak Island Borough	5,665	6,671	5,481	428	456	260	7.6	6.8	4.7	5,237	6,215	5,221
Valdez-Cordova	3,843	4,372	3,881	328	201	378	8.5	4.6	9.7	3,515	4,171	3,503
Interior Region	33,870	34,898	35,543	2,942	3,151	4,160	8.7	9.0	11.7	30,928	31,747	31,383
Fairbanks North Star Bor.	29,187	30,161	30,487	2,403	2,668	3,308	8.2	8.8	10.9	26,784	27,493	27,179
Southeast Fairbanks	1,935	1,952	2,079	192	163	311	9.9	8.4	15.0	1,743	1,789	1,768
Yukon-Koyukuk	2,748	2,785	2,977	347	320	541	12.6	11.5	18.2	2,401	2,465	2,436
Northern Region	8,227	8,177	8,110	579	751	613	7.0	9.2	7.6	7,648	7,426	7,497
Nome	3,067	3,088	3,072	216	320	277	7.0	10.4	9.0	2,851	2,768	2,795
North Slope Borough	2,986	2,951	2,913	132	180	116	4.4	6.1	4.0	2,854	2,771	2,797
Northwest Arctic Borough	2,174	2,138	2,125	231	251	220	10.6	11.7	10.4	1,943	1,887	1,905
Southeast Region	34,041	35,502	34,668	2,383	2,374	2,465	7.0	6.7	7.1	31,658	33,128	32,203
Haines Borough	850	876	846	74	64	57	8.7	7.3	6.7	776	812	789
Juneau Borough	15,326	16,168	15,594	862	1,031	880	5.6	6.4	5.6	14,464	15,137	14,714
Ketchikan Gateway Bor.	6,267	6,485	6,440	470	419	543	7.5	6.5	8.4	5,797	6,066	5,897
Pr. of Wales-Outer Ketch.	2,624	2,699	2,705	281	247	322	10.7	9.2	11.9	2,343	2,452	2,383
Sitka Borough	3,990	4,181	4,096	205	221	246	5.1	5.3	6.0	3,785	3,960	3,850
Skagway-Yakutat-Angoon	1,590	1,585	1,644	186	116	216	11.7	7.3	13.1	1,404	1,469	1,428
Wrangell-Petersburg	3,394	3,508	3,343	305	276	201	9.0	7.9	6.0	3,089	3,232	3,142
Southwest Region	11,729	12,287	11,824	596	818	712	5.1	6.7	6.0	11,133	11,469	11,112
Aleutian Islands	3,[illegible]4	3,362	3,274	52	74	88	1.6	2.2	2.7	3,192	3,288	3,186
Bethel	4,462	4,738	4,497	272	422	315	6.1	8.9	7.0	4,190	4,316	4,182
Bristol Bay Borough	434	445	445	21	19	33	4.8	4.3	7.4	413	426	412
Dillingham	2,113	2,176	2,129	123	126	143	5.8	5.8	6.7	1,990	2,050	1,986
Wade Hampton	1,476	1,566	1,479	128	177	133	8.7	11.3	9.0	1,348	1,389	1,346

Notes: p/ denotes preliminary estimates r/ denotes revised estimates Benchmark: 1988

- Federal guidelines require the use of unrounded labor force data, adjusted to be consistent with the Current Population Survey in formulas used to allocate federal funds.
- Comparisons between different time periods are not as meaningful as other time series published by the Alaska Department of Labor.
- The official definitions of unemployment currently in place exclude anyone who has made no attempt to find work in the four-week period up to and including the week that includes the 12th of each month. Most Alaska economists believe that Alaska's rural localities have proportionately more of these discouraged workers.
- The employment numbers that appear above are definitionally different from those that appear in the Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Employment tables.

Source: Alaska Department of Labor, Research & Analysis Section.

Index of Articles Published in Alaska Economic Trends in 1989

January

- A Portrait: Alaska's Working Youth
- Statewide Unemployment Rate Changes Method of Calculation
- The Economic Impact of the University of Alaska
- Alaska's Employment Scene November 1988

February

- The Unemployment Insurance System: It Works for Alaskans When Alaskans Cannot Work
- Alaska's Employment Scene December 1988

March/April

- Alaska's Economy Rebounds From Recession
- Anchorage 1988: Economic Recovery Was In the Air
- Fairbanks 1988: Beginning of the End of a Three-year Slide
- Southeast 1988: Outperformed the Rest of the State
- Gulf Coast 1988: Overall, It was a Growth Year- 2.9%
- Alaska's Employment Scene January 1989

May

- Alaska Economy Rising from the Ashes
- Anchorage Recovery Coming At A Snail's Pace
- Fairbanks Economy Heads Upward (At Last)
- 1.2% Annual Employment Growth Projected for the Southeast
- Alaska's Employment Scene February 1989

June

- Typical Characteristics of Unemployment Insurance Claimants: 1985 to 1988
- Analysis: Migration and Employment During Two Recent Recessions
- Alaska's Employment Scene March 1989

July

- Prince William Sound: Five Economies in Turm(oil)
- Nonresident Workers Impact on Alaska in 1987 was Significant
- Alaska's Employment Scene April 1989

August

- The Trends 50: 1988: Alaska's 50 Largest Private Employers
- Alaska's Employment Scene May 1989

September

- A Look Ahead to the Alaska Labor Force of the Year 2000
- Alaska's Employment Scene June 1989

October

- Alaska's Income Picture Brightened in 1987 & 1988
- Measuring the Cost of Living: Indicators are Imperfect Tools
- Alaska's Employment Scene July 1989

November

- Alaska Mining Reawakens
- An Overview of Alaska's Oil Industry
- Alaska's Employment Scene August 1989

December

- Alaska's Labor Market: From Surplus to Shortage
- Is There A Nurse In the House?
- 1990 Census- The Big Count
- Alaska's Employment Scene September 1989

Alaska Economic Regions